

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 091958  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: NEA/IAI:GDKULICK

APPROVED BY: NEA/IAI:WBSMITHII

S/S-O-SSTEINER

NEA:EGABINGTON

-----231452Z 095327 /45

R 230023Z APR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091958

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 5969 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 08 APR

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5969

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EG, US

SUBJECT: MOBIL BEGINS EXPLORATION WORK IN SINAI

REF: (A) CAIRO 4886, (B) CAIRO A-44

1. DURING VISIT OF MOBIL EXECUTIVES IN LATE MARCH, MOBIL AND  
EGPC INITIALLED AGREEMENT FOR EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION IN AREA  
MENTIONED REFTTEL AND DESCRIBED REPAIR. AREA IS EXTENSION OF  
FORMER MOBIL DEVELOPMENT LEASES IN SUDR, MATARMA AND ASL.  
ALTHOUGH NO ONE YET SEEMS TO HAVE PLOTTED DISENGAGEMENT LINES  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 091958

WITH AREA INVOLVED, IT APPEARS THAT ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE AREA  
LIES BETWEEN LIME M AND GULF OF SUEZ COAST. ACCORDING TO TERMS,  
MOBIL AGREED TO BEGIN EXPLORATION WORK BEFORE FORMAL PEOPLES  
ASSEMBLY APPROVAL WAS VOTED.

2. MOBIL EXPLORATION CHIEF SAWTELLE TOLD EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT  
SEISMIC CREWS BELONGING TO GEOPHYSICAL SERVICES, INC., (GSI),

HAVE BEEN WORKING IN AREA AROUND SUDR, MATARMA AND ASL FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS. GSI APPLIED TO UN THROUGH SINAI LIAISON OFFICE FOR PERMISSION TO ENTER AREA WITH REQUIRED NUMBER OF VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING EXPLOSIVES, AND PERSONNEL TO CARRY OUT EIGHT-WEEK SEISMIC PROGRAM. ACCORDING TO SAWTELLE, UN SCRUTINIZED LISTS, INCLUDING PICTURES OF VEHICLES AND PASSPORTS OF INDIVIDUALS CAREFULLY, BEFORE PERMITTING EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TO ENTER. ONE INTERESTING FACT IS THAT GSI HAD TO UNDERTAKE MAJOR MINE CLEARANCE OPERATION IN AREA JUST NORTH OF AL-SUDR, WHICH UN ASSURED GSI WAS FREE OF MINES. MOBIL KNOWS OF AT LEAST ONE INCIDENT IN WHICH GSI TEAMS STRAYED INTO ISRAELI HELD TERRITORY. WHEN UN DISCOVERED THIS THEY ASKED GSI TO RETURN WEST OF LINE M. ISRAELIS APPARENTLY DO NOT PATROL THIS AREA CAREFULLY AS NO ISRAELI TROOPS HAVE BEEN ENCOUNTERED.

3. BASED ON GSI'S EXPERIENCE WITH EXPLORATION WORK IN AREA SOUTH OF LINE E AND WEST OF LINE M, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT U.N. IS INTERPRETING SINAI II AGREEMENT, ANNEX PARA 3(B) TO MEAN THAT BOTH OIL FIELD OPERATION AND EXPLORATION ARE ACCEPTABLE CIVILIAN ACTIVITIES. THERE IS ALSO POSSIBILITY THAT MOBIL'S PREVIOUS ASSOCIATION WITH DEVELOPMENT LEASES AT SUDR, MATARMA AND ASL LED U.N. TO BELIEVE THAT CURRENT PROGRAM RELATED TO OPERATION OF EXISTING FIELDS. (FYI WE KNOW, FOR INSTANCE, THAT C.O.P.E., OPERATORS OF ABU RUDEIS/BELAYIM FIELDS, DID SOME SEISMIC WORK RELATED TO REHABILITATION OF ABU RUDEIS IN 1976 USING EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL ALREADY AT ABU RUDEIS. END FYI.)

4. BASED ON DISCUSSION WITH SAWTELLE, GOE NEVER MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF ACCESS PROBLEM AND NO PROTECTIVE CLAUSE IS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 091958

CONTAINED IN MOBIL'S AGREEMENT, EXCEPT FOR THAT AREA IN BUFFER ZONE OR IN TERRITORY STILL UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION (EAST OF LINE M). MOBIL, OF COURSE, CONCERNED THAT NOTHING INTERFERE WITH THEIR EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS, HENCE ASKED US NOT TO RAISE SUBJECT WITH UN SINCE OFFICIAL APPROVAL ALREADY GRANTED AND CREWS AT WORK. WE IN FACT SEE NO REASON TO DO SO.

MATTHEWS

UNQTE VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 23-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE091958  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** NEA/IAI:GDKULICK  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770425/aaaaaviu.tel  
**Line Count:** 105  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Message ID:** a1e616a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 CAIRO 4886, 77 CAIRO A-44  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2712172  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MOBIL BEGINS EXPLORATION WORK IN SINAI  
**TAGS:** ENRG, EG, US  
**To:** TEL AVIV  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a1e616a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009